

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pittsburgh, PA)

EYEWITNESS: 1915 NEWSBOYS' EXAGGERATIONS GET THE ATTENTION OF POLICE Series: EYEWITNESS

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[Read preview \(/read/1P2-38176416/eyewitness-1915-newsboys-exaggerations-get-the-attention\)](#)

Article excerpt

Serious crime in Pittsburgh apparently had slowed down in January 1915. That gave city police a chance to concentrate on some of the city's younger malefactors, according to the Jan. 3 edition of The Pittsburgh Gazette Times.

"Newsboys and young men masquerading as newsboys will have to stop 'faking' in order to sell their papers," the newspaper reported. Police Superintendent W. Noble Matthews issued the warning in response to reports that "cases of newsboys crying up their wares with false statements are increasing."

"The superintendent yesterday ordered the police to investigate the exaggerated and false claims of the 'newsies,' evidently designed to mislead the public into buying papers," the story said.

Perhaps Matthews wanted to get the situation under control before "Noodles" Fagan, the "King of the Newsboys," returned to his hometown. Fagan, "the friend of the newsboys in Pittsburgh," was scheduled to entertain at the Miles Theater. The theater, named for vaudeville producer Charles H. Miles, stood at the corner of 7th Street and Penn Avenue.

Fagan's Jan. 20 performance of "comedy and talks" would be free to all newsboys who peddled or home-delivered copies of the Gazette Times, the newspaper announced on Jan. 17.

The Gazette Times noted that "Noodles began his career as a Pittsburgh newsboy about 20 years ago and has worked himself up until he is now probably the world's most famous newsboy."

The Pittsburgh Press claimed an even closer link to the entertainer.

